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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Yuhong ZHOU et al.  
Title: MUCIN SYNTHESIS INHIBITORS  
Appl. No.: 09/774,243  
Filing Date: 01/31/2001  
Examiner: J. Young  
Art Unit: 1614

#8  
11/8/02  
J. Young

**RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Box NON-FEE AMENDMENT  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action mailed October 1, 2002, Applicants hereby elect for examination on the merits, method of treating a disease characterized by the production of mucin wherein the substance administered is a 2-aminophenylacetic acid. The election is understood to include compositions comprising talniflumate and methods of treating a disease wherein the compound administered is talniflumate.

The Examiner is reminded that upon finding that methods and compositions with talniflumate is free of the prior art, MPEP § 803.02 must be followed which clearly sets forth that the Examiner is to extend the search of a Markush-type generic claim should no prior art be found that anticipates or renders obvious the claim. In the present case, claim 4 recites a Markush group of compounds which can be administered for the treatment of a disease characterized by mucin production. Therefore, the Examiner is requested to follow the procedure of MPEP § 803.02 upon finding the elected species free of the prior art.

An early favorable action on the merits is awaited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date Nov. 1, 2002

By Mary C. Till

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